

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 NEAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8869

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: NEWS STORY ON PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY MOVEMENT
INTO LEBANON

REF: STATE 53542

1. DATT AND OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE RESEARCHED THIS STORY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES AND WE ARE QUITE SURE IT IS FALSE. PLA FORCES IN LEBANON TOTAL NO MORE THAN 6,000 OF WHICH SOME MAY BE BACK IN SYRIA AT ANY GIVEN TIME FOR REST, RE-SUPPLY, ETC. WE BELIEVE WHAT PRESS SAW WAS MOVEMENT OF RE-SUPPLY TRUCKS FROM SYRIAN INTO LEBANON TWO DAYS AGO, WHICH LEBANESE ARMY SOURCES PUT AS 82 TRUCKS AND 20 JEEPS. SOME OF THESE WENT SOUTH TO NABATIYAH AREA NEAR ISRAELI BORDER. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO MOVEMENT OF NEW TROOPS. BULK OF PLA FORCES IN LEBANON REMAIN IN BEKAA, THOUGH SOME ARE IN TRIPOLI/AKKAR AREA IN THE NORTH AS WELL AS SOME IN BEIRUT.

2. FYI: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SMALL NUMBER (UNDER 300) OF AIN JALLOUT BRIGADE ARE STILL IN SYRIA PLANNING TO
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CROSS INTO LEBANON SOON. WORD OF THIS PLAN MAY HAVE

GOTTEN OUT INTO PRESS CIRCLES HERE AND IN THE COURSE
OF THINGS BEEN EXAGGERATED AND LUMPED TOGETHER WITH
PERCEIVED MOVEMENT OF RE-SUPPLY TRUCKS MENTIONED
ABOVE.

3. PURPOSE OF PLA TROOPS IN LEBANON AS WE CONTINUE TO
PERCEIVE IT IS TO ENFORCE SECURITY. TROOPS HAVE NOT
MOVED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS TO ISRAELI FRONTIER.
THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO LARGE NUMBERS OF PLA TROOOPS
BEING KEPT IN RESERVE IN SYRIA.
LAMBRAKIS

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